

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR

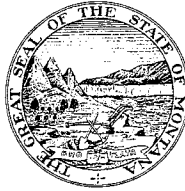


EXHIBIT NO. 1  
DATE 4-27-2009  
BILL NO. HB 123  
JOHN BOHLINGER  
LT. GOVERNOR

April 23, 2009

The Honorable Bob Bergren  
Speaker of the House  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Robert Story, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Speaker Bergren and President Story:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby return with amendments House Bill 123, **"AN ACT REDUCING THE STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE GROWTH THROUGH AGRICULTURE PROGRAM AND FOR RESEARCH AND COMMERCIALIZATION PROJECTS; EXTENDING THE TERMINATION DATE FOR CERTAIN ALLOCATIONS AND STATUTORY APPROPRIATIONS OF THE INTEREST INCOME FROM \$140 MILLION OF THE COAL SEVERANCE TAX PERMANENT FUND; AMENDING SECTION 15-35-108, MCA, SECTION 3, CHAPTER 481, LAWS OF 2003, AND SECTION 6, CHAPTER 481, LAWS OF 2003; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES AND A TERMINATION DATE."**

House Bill 123, sponsored by Rep. Llew Jones, extends for 10 years (from 2009 to 2019) the sunset of the growth through agriculture program and the research and commercialization projects funded through interest income from certain of the coal severance tax permanent fund, which otherwise would be deposited in the general fund. The bill also reduces the funding of these programs from their current level by half.

The Senate amended the bill to restore the funding of these programs to their current level beginning July 1, 2012, or for fiscal year 2013. My amendment restores the bill to its introduced version. My amendment will save the general fund \$3 million in the 2013 biennium and through the extended life of this legislation. Given our current fiscal challenges, I believe limiting the funding for these valuable but non-essential programs is the economically prudent thing to do.

I ask for your support of my amendments.

Sincerely,

  
BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR

cc: Legislative Services Division

HB 123

Amendments to House Bill No. 123  
Reference Copy

Requested by the Governor

For the House Committee of the Whole

Prepared by Greg Petesch  
April 23, 2009 (8:11AM)

1. Title, lines 10 and 11.  
Following: "DATES" on line 10  
Strike: remainder of line 10 through "DATE" on line 11
2. Page 4, line 8.  
Following: "2"  
Strike: "1"  
Insert: "and"  
Following: "3"  
Strike: ", AND 5"
3. Page 4, line 10.  
Strike: section 5 in its entirety

- END -